sector in consultation with all concerned Ministries/Departments and National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS).

Children employed in hazardous occupations

2361. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 12 lakh children between the ages of five and fourteen remain employed in hazardous occupations, despite the Government banning the child labour 20 years ago;

(b) whether based on 2001 Census 2,52,000 children are engaged in bidi manufacturing and 208,833 in construction sector;

(c) whether it is also a fact that only about 3,74 lakh children were rehabilitated and put in schools under the National Child Labour Projects (NCLP); and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to extend the NCLP project to all the districts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Census conducted by the Registrar General of India is the only authentic data in respect of population of child labour in the country. As per the 2001 census, about 12 lakh children are employed in major hazardous occupations and processes in the age group of 5-14 years. Of these, 2.52 and 2.08 lakh children are working in bidi/pan/cigarettes and construction industries respectively.

(c) Under the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects, the children withdrawn from work are put into the special schools for a period of three years after that, they are mainstreamed into formal education system. So far, 3.78 lakh children are mainstreamed into formal education system.

(d) Government proposes to expand the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme during the 11st Five Year Plan.